Procurement and allocation of foodgrains

†174. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any order has been issued by his Ministry regarding nontransportations of "Usana" and "Arawa" rice outside Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the acquisition of 9.30 lac metric tonnes of levy rice has been targeted for Central pool to the State of Chhattisgarh by Government of India;

(c) the allocation of wheat and rice in lac metric tonnes under APL scheme for every month in the current financial year 2009-10; and

(d) whether the paddy of farmers is being purchased at very low price in crop markets due to non-purchase of summer paddy at support price and there is grave dissatisfaction among farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) On the request of the State Government of Chhattisgarh, Food Corporation of India has been asked to accept delivery of 9 lakh tonnes of levy rice in the period June, 09 to September, 09.

(c) 1401 tonnes of rice and 23959 tonnes of wheat have been allocated to Government of Chhattisgarh every month under the APL Scheme (including *adhoc*/additional and equity-based allocations) from April to June, 2009. From July, 2009 to March 2010, 10360 tonnes of rice and 15000 tonnes of wheat have been allocated to Government of Chhattisgarh every month under the APL Scheme (including *adhoc*/additional and equity-based allocations) during the current financial year 2009-10.

(d) No report of sale of paddy below the Minimum Support Price announced by the Government has been received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh.

Procurement of paddy in Chhattisgarh

175. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether paddy has been sown in about 2 lac hectares in summer season in Chhattisgarh and there has been a yield of 6 lac metric tonnes and whether the procurement of paddy by Government is not being made at minimum support price;

(b) whether the paddy from farmers is being purchased by traders at a price lower by Rs. 200 to 250 per quintal than the support price in grain markets; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the quantity of paddy in lac metric tonnes procured by Government at minimum support price for the central pool?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that summer paddy has been sown in 1.70 lakh hectare and production of paddy is estimated at 5.5 lakh tonnes. During current Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09, 30.59 lakh tonnes of paddy has been procured in Chhattisgarh, as on 30.6.2009 at MSP plus incentive bonus announced by the Government of India and State Government.

(b) No report of distress sale *i.e.* sale of paddy by farmers of Chhattisgarh below the Minimum Support Price and bonus has been received from Government of Chhattisgarh or from the FCI.

(c) 307.82 lakh tonnes of paddy has been procured as on 30.06.2009 in the current Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09 under the support price scheme.

Food security agenda

176. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in pursuance of the food security agenda spelt out in the President Address to Parliament;

(b) the number of below poverty line families identified in different States in the country; and

(c) the foodgrain allocated and supplied to each State and Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per the President's Address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009, the Government proposes to enact National Food Security Act to provide for assured food security for all citizens and to make entitled, by law, every family below the poverty line in rural and urban areas to 25 kgs. of rice or wheat per month @ Rs. 3 per kg.

In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action. Examination of different aspects of the proposed law in consultation with State Governments, various Central Ministries, experts and other stake holders is in progress.

Presently, under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocation of foodgrains is made for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) (including the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000. However, different State Governments have issued ration cards to more number of BPL families. The total number of BPL (including AAY) ration cards issued by the States at present is 10.86 crore.